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## INVITE BIRDS TO YOUR HOME

The songs of birds and their colorful, sprightly activities add much to the joys of country or suburban living. Birds help reduce the insect pests that attack flowers, lawns, gardens, and people.

Perhaps you've had some experience with *manmade* devices that attract birds—feeders, birdbaths, birdhouses, nesting shelves, and the like. But here's a *natural* way to invite birds to your home and grounds.

Plant shrubs, trees, vines, and other plants that serve the various needs of birds. Such plants not only attract birds, but they can also bring beauty to your property.

The plants shown here are pleasing both to birds and to the human eye. With the same stroke that you get your landscaping done, you provide places where birds can feed, sing, court, nest, rest, hide, and do all the other things that birds do.

Birds regularly feed on berries, and their favorite berries are usually bright-hued and decorative. Their needs for shelter are met by hedges and other dense shrubbery that can fit handsomely in the backyard scene.

Trees for nesting and singing offer shade and beauty to the householder. And the pool or pond built for wildlife can also serve as a recreation area for the family.

### Mix and Blend

Birds like variety. Bear this in mind when you blend the plants attractive to birds into the conservation-planned landscape of both your yard and grounds. Plan a rich intermingling of species, sizes, and shapes of plants. And lay out your plantings in varied patterns. Give birds a wide choice for their various activities—from the crowns of tall trees all the way down to the low seed-heads in flowerbeds and lawns.

You have any number of options as to hardwoods and conifers; vines, shrubs, and trees; grasses; flowers; and even weeds to create a landscape conservation design—one that will bring birds outside your window. If your yard is small, you'll have to depend mostly on single specimen plants. But if you have extensive grounds you can use hedges, clumps, feeding strips, and other massed plantings. If you have a wooded area, a small clearing lends variety to the landscape for birds.

By studying the plants already present along with your general plan for landscaping, you can bring in a diversity of plant forms, food producers, and shelter plants that would otherwise be missing. Many common shade trees and landscape shrubs, for example, yield little food for birds. Here you may work in autumn olive, honeysuckle, or other good fruit-bearing shrubs. Yards and grounds that have only leaf-shedding trees and shrubs are improved by adding junipers, cedars, yews, and other evergreens that provide shelter to birds in winter.

Be sure to think about being able to *see* the birds. Put the plants where they can be observed from a window, patio, or terrace. And choose those reported to have high bird use for best results. Careful attention to the periods of bloom and availability of choice foods makes it possible to have a succession of floral displays and bird foods throughout the year.

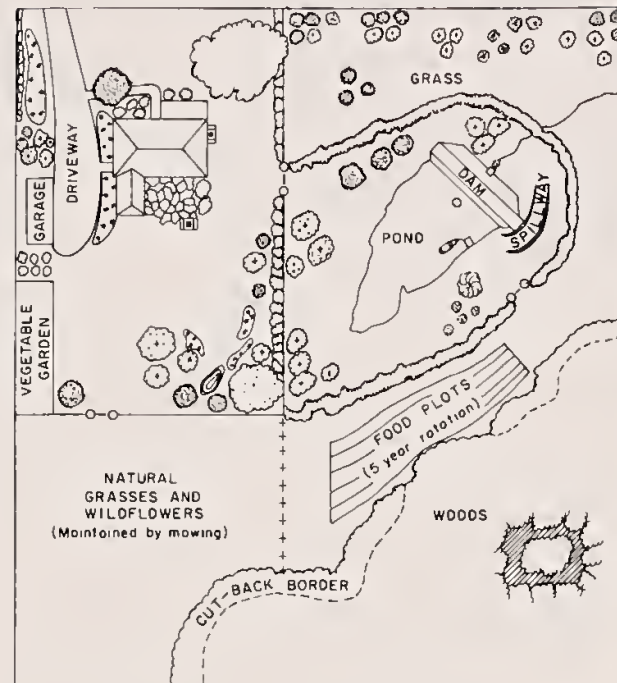
### FOR HELP

You can get further information on plants and conservation methods at your local soil conservation district office. The Soil Conservation Service, as part of its assistance to conservation districts, helps individual land users apply many soil and water conservation practices that increase wildlife. County agents, commercial nurserymen, landscape architects, and bird societies can also help.

Plants listed in this brochure are adapted and useful in the Northeast and as far south and west as Virginia and Kentucky.

## Birds Outside Your Window

### CONSERVATION TREATMENTS FOR A SUBURBAN LOT—LARGE OR SMALL



#### LEGEND

- |  |                             |  |   |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
|  | Pool or birdbath            |  | Trees for birds                           |
|  | Flowerbed                   |  | Shrub hedge                               |
|  | Shade tree                  |  | Weeping willow                            |
|  | Large conifer               |  | Woodland clearing                         |
|  | Low conifer                 |  | Natural or planted hedgerow               |
|  | Ornamental or garden shrubs |  | Conifer screen with planted shrub borders |
|  | Shrubs for birds            |  |   |



### CONSERVATION PLANNING

The design to the left is a small-scale sample of the conservation treatments applied on farms and other large rural properties in the Northeast. It shows, first, (top left) what can be done on a house lot of ordinary size. Then, if you have additional space, it shows other treatments that can be added.

You need to consider, when planting for birds, such things as soil, slope, drainage, exposure aspects, and climate as well as your personal wishes. Added benefits occur where plantings can be sited to provide shade, soil stabilization, and control of potentially damaging water runoff.



**Food Plots.**—You can set up a strip cropping rotation of bird foods in small fields. Plant a different strip each year. Corn, buckwheat, sunflowers, and Japanese and German millets are good foods for birds. You can plow a different strip each year and let nature do the planting. A good rotation opens strips 1-3-5-2-4 successively.



**Cutback Borders and Clearings.**—Cut your fireplace wood from along the edges of the woods. Cut all trees over 4 inches in diameter in a strip 20 feet or more deep along the edge. Native shrubs, vines, wildflowers, and herbs will soon fill this strip. You'll find it full of birds too. Clear-cut small blocks about 50 feet square inside the woods, especially around nut- or fruit-bearing trees. Birds concentrate in clearings, and nut or fruit yields increase.

**Grassed and Open Areas.**—Where you have extra space for birds, you can install measures similar to those employed by conservation farmers. Some birds, such as the field sparrow and meadowlark, like the open areas of natural grasses and wildflowers. Here you need only to keep out woody plants by an occasional mowing.



**Water Areas.**—When you build a small pool or pond you'll get an extra dividend in birds. Border these watering places with contoured hedges and plant clumps of shrubs and conifers in corners well back from the water. Willows are especially attractive to orioles, warblers, and catbirds.



**"Living Screens."**—Screen with windbreak plantings unpleasant views and areas where privacy is desired. Conifers bordered by such shrubs as autumn olive, dogwood, or honeysuckle make effective screens.



**"Living Fences."**—Hedgerows across open fields, either planted or encouraged to come in naturally, furnish a diversity of plant life that adds both numbers and species of birds to your lot. Autumn olive, Tatarian honeysuckle, and dogwoods are good for planting. If you plow a 6-foot strip in which you set poles about every 20 feet and string wire or stout cord between the poles, perching birds will do the planting.